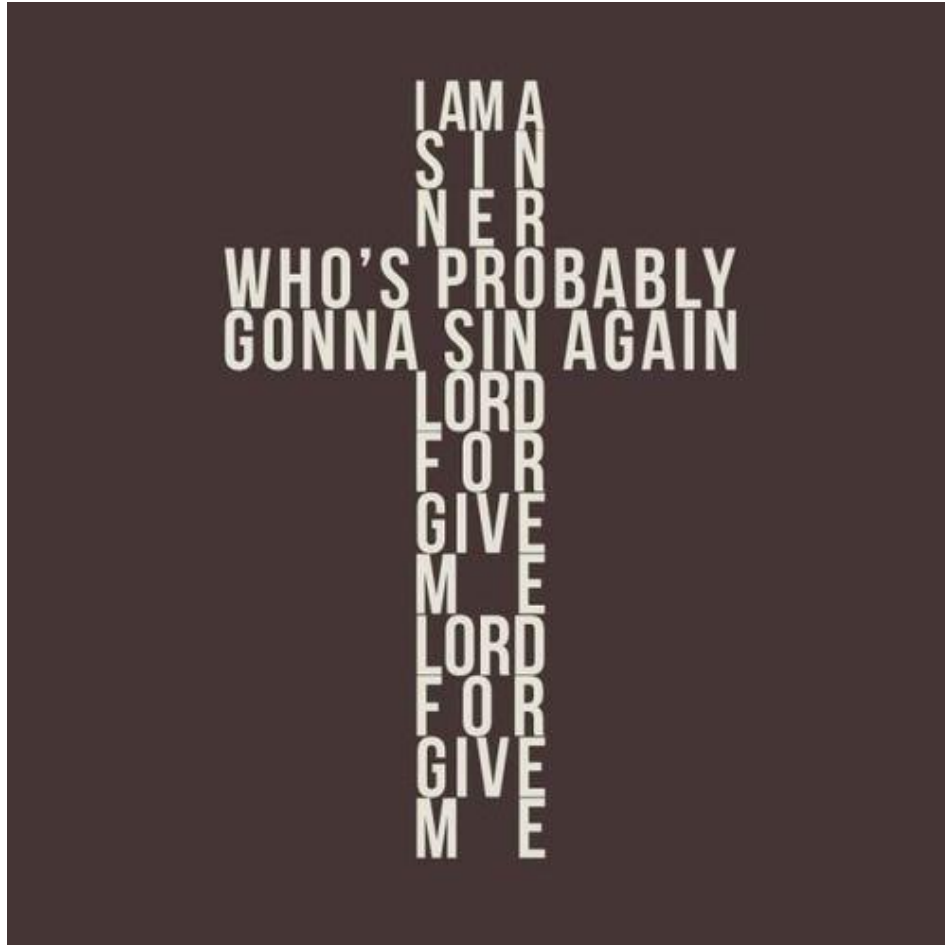


Akilah Alexander  
Turula  
English 1102



I Am a Sinner. Digital image. *Quotesgram*. N.p., n.d. Web. 9 Oct. 2015. <<http://media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/736x/a6/a3/3b/a6a33b252347a3ec477ad3a844b66bc6.jpg>>.

### **Madman or Rebel?**

“A Good Man is Hard to Find”

-in with a

criminal and murderer called The Misfit. While, at first glance, The Misfit seems to be motivated by his resentment towards mankind, it later becomes evident that The Misfit

s

### *The Rebel*

s opinion, a rebel is one who says yes and no simultaneously by rejecting the invasion of a value that is of great significance to him and affirming the existence of a boundary that has been crossed (Camus).

The Misfit in Flan

A Good Man is Hard to Find is a prime example of an unconventional rebel.

Despite the

he unjust punishment mankind receives for their natural

typical traits

experiences a feeling of revulsion at the infringement of his rights and a complete and spontaneous loyalty to

characteristic is shown in T s decision to

bring the dead back to life. He feels as though it was not right for Jesus to do what he did because it set everything

ss such a thing, The Misfit seems conflicted

r 1185). This

confusion grants The Misfit an awareness of the fact that he is capable of acting of his own will. While The Misfit

feels empowered by his right to free will, he is disgusted by the naiveté of people who choose to follow God

blindly. A prime example of this mentality is shown by the grandma, who ironically pleas for her own life rather

than the life of her family when she realizes her life is at stake. As the family is later murdered in cold blood, it

where the old house was, the family might have lived. The Misfit resents the self-absorbed hypocrisy of the

grandmother and anyone else who blindly follows God. By taking the lives of anyone despite their age or gender,

he is retaliating against this behavior while simultaneously showing others that they can make decisions for

themselves and act on their own impulses without being controlled by the word of God because it is part of their

nature to sin.

One can argue that The Misfit cannot be a rebel, but he is actually resentful because a rebel does not derive pleasure from the pain of others, and T

1185). Ross Wilson states in his essay that The Misift maintains the philosophy of both the rebel and the one who resents: "Interestingly, both of these philosophies apply to The Misfit in some respects and provide an interpretive framework through which T

(Wilson). Despite his claim, however, the tone of voice in which The Misfit speaks when he says this implies that he does not agree with this view. This is evidenced by

onnor 1185) which implies that The Misfit is actually disgusted by the way that people can derive pleasure from hurting each other. Later, near the conclusion of the story, The Misfit addresses his accomplice

he Misfit did not

take pleasure in killing the old woman. This is a characteristic of the rebel, whose actions are not driven by the need to satisfy his own selfish desires, but are instead used to further the advocacy of his rights which have been infringed upon by either society or another oppressive individual.

a rather obvious characteristic of Flannery

, which falls under the category of Southern Gothic literature. Short stories that fall under this category usually have a theme which can be found beneath the dark, gloomy, and sometimes morbid tone that the author sets. In *The Misfit*, The Misfit appears to be a criminal in the eyes of the other characters present, but it is later revealed that The Misfit is somewhat like a prophet. His beliefs, if considered closely, are not warped, but actually align with the morals of someone who would consider his or herself a realist. His explanation of what motivates him to kill as a way to take advantage of the free will that God has given mankind is what makes the grandmother realize that they are more similar than they are different. Despite the pride that the grandmother takes in being an honorable, godly woman, she realizes that they are both flawed sinners. If her family would never have encountered the Misfit. With the realization of this, the grandmother also realizes that The Misfit is killing because he wishes for people to accept their inherently sinful nature and stop living as slaves to man-made laws and unjust because a good deed does not override what a man truly is: a sinner.

While rebellion may not be motivated by resent

the idea of rebellion in its widest sense on pain of betraying it; and in its widest sense rebellion goes far beyond the betrayal that the Misfit feels in being able to act of his own accord and even sin despite the claim that he should be following God. He feels as though people are wasting their time in trying to experience salvation or get to Heaven because they are given the option and the power to do things like kill each other. To The Misfit, people will always be unjustly punished for being born into sin. Although Jesus is the only one that can bring a person back to life, The Misfit believes that He has put everything off balance by doing so. Death is part of the natural order of things, and by bringing someone back to life, Jesus has tipped the scales of normal perception. Before, people would assume that death was finite

